



Economic Consultant Personal Services Contractor (PSC)

1. Introduction

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a United States government-owned corporation responsible for the stewardship of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). MCC works with developing countries to promote sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty.

One of MCC's guiding principles is a focus on measurable results. Prior to signing a compact, MCC conducts cost-benefit analysis to assess the proposed projects' likely economic impact and cost-effectiveness. MCC also analyzes the likely poverty and distributional impacts of proposed projects as part of a beneficiary analysis. During and after the compact is implemented, MCC conducts rigorous impact evaluations that seek to quantify the projects' actual impact on poverty. MCC strives for transparency in all of its programs and posts many of these analyses on the agency's public website.

MCC also strives for transparency in the way that countries are selected as eligible to receive grant assistance. MCC relies on a series of quantitative, third-party policy indicators to determine countries' policy performance in three broad areas: Ruling Justly, Investing in People, and Economic Freedom. After several years of experience with the selection system, MCC has learned a number of things about the way the system performs and where challenges exist. In keeping with MCC's commitment to aid effectiveness through the regular evaluation of its own practices, MCC is conducting a comprehensive review of the selection system, looking particularly at the criteria and methodology used to select eligible countries.

2. Scope

The Economic Analysis & Evaluation Division and the Development Policy Division of MCC's Department of Policy & International Relations (PIR) is seeking a intermittent/part time Personal Services Contractor (PSC) to serve as an Economic Consultant at its MCC headquarters in Washington, DC.

3. Duties

The Economic Consultant position is expected to possess a solid background in development economics and statistics, an understanding of benefit-cost analysis and impact evaluation, and some experience working with comparative cross-national data sets. The Economic Consultant will work in collaboration with MCC economists and technical specialists under the direction of MCC's Chief Economist and the Senior Director for Economic Policy. The PSC will work as a member of the PIR team in cooperation with other MCC staff.

Duties will include (but are not limited to):

- Participate in MCC's economic peer review process by providing technical feedback on economic rate of return (ERR) spreadsheets and assisting in sensitivity analysis
- Research economic issues related to MCC's investments or participation in interagency initiatives
- Conduct beneficiary analysis by using Stata to analyze national household surveys and assess the likely poverty and distributional impacts of proposed projects
- Depending on the Division's needs, assist in preparing ERR spreadsheets, beneficiary analysis or impact evaluation data and documentation for web posting
- Conduct research and analysis in support of other activities within the Economic Analysis and Evaluation Division
- Design and execute data exploration exercises to determine the performance, validity, and biases of individual selection indicators
- Model various permutations of indicator-based selection systems in Excel, Access, or Stata to determine outcomes based on historic data; provide analysis of these results; and identify possible alternative system methodologies or scenarios.

4. Evaluation Criteria

This position is limited to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents with 5 years residency history due to the security background clearance requirement.

- Minimum master's degree or PhD coursework in economics, public policy or related field; PhD preferred
- Demonstrated knowledge of development economics, statistics and econometrics
- Understanding of benefit-cost analysis, survey analysis and impact evaluation methods
- Experience in the field of economic development or economic research
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Excel, including macro programming capabilities
- Knowledge of Stata, particularly survey analysis tools
- Demonstrated capacity to produce visual representations of findings from data exploration or analysis
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to discuss complex economic and policy issues orally and in writing
- Billing rates

5. Period of Performance

The initial period of performance for this intermittent/part time PSC contract is six months; plus options for four twelve month periods. Maximum number of hours is 1664 hours per year.

6. How to Apply

Interested parties should submit by email to recruitment@mcc.gov the following package: 1) Curriculum Vitae, 2) a brief cover letter that addresses the desired qualifications and provides three professional or academic references, and 3) brief salary history and fully loaded hourly salary rate requirement. Please include “PIR Economic Consultant” in the subject line of your email. First cut off for applications is July 12, 2010, however the announcement is open continuously until the position is filled.